Dear Paul, 5/16/71

I hope this crappy, off-sized paper presents no problems for you. I bought it because it was cheap and our finances steadily deteriorate. When it is gone I have an enormous supply of outdated Ozalid paper I will be using, an entire case of it having been given me.

This morning I skimmed the notes at the beginning of the "1" envelope of your large and quite valuable mailing (by the way, Jerry will be about three weeks sending you the check, for he has an excellent income and usually manages to exceed it). I have put it away and will not be commenting on it in great detail. I'll say a few things from recollection. I'm pleased to note that some of my phrases have stuck in your mind, for they tell me they were apt. You may be unaware of having used some from such things as PM, where I did go into some of the things mentioned in these notes. As you earlier told me, there are subjective. I enjoyed many of your appropriate cracks.

I have a number of purposes in this separate note, some of information, some of caution. The past tells me you may not be willing to agree with the cautions, and that will have to be your decision. Whether or not you agree, with what is your material I certainly cannot complain about your doing things your way. However, I also know things I cannot now safely communicate to you. If there is any prospect of your getting east again in the near future, I suggest that you plan to spend less time at the Archives and sufficient time here for us to talk as we had no time to before (and I'm sorry your folks never stopped off again).

A carbon is enclosed for Jim Schmitt. I'm not sending it to him for a special reason. Not because I don't want him to have it. This is a decision I'd prefer that you make for a number of reasons. I recall his reluctance, indeed, refusal of any credit, and what I took to be an apprehension about public identification. Second, we will, inevitably – I know I am and I will even more – be getting into very tender and perhaps hazardous areas. You should be aware of this belief as it regards you also. It is my belief that with two areas at the very least of this material there should be no further redistribution. What you may have done already is one thing. What you may do with what is yet to come, especially with what I will, I hope, from time to time, be sending you, is another matter. With those things, aside from Jim, whose feelings should be respected (but I personally would want him in and helping), I ask that not any one else be in. These are anything relating to Oswald as any kind of agent, and in the broadest sense, with even casual contacts we cannot yet evaluate included; and medico-autopsy material, where you know the extent of my work and have an idea of what I have to add. These are, as of this moment, the two most tender areas and I have things I've not communicated to you, some I believe and expected in time, some dubious. Also, some strange things are currently going on. I cannot fully appraise them, and until I can, I, too, must be cautious. One may be a working of the Department of Disinformation. Another may be an elaborate effort to inform me by indirection, by one what has been informative in the past (this may be an entirely incorrect interpretation, hence I say "may", and the alternatives are not fully clear).

Even if the things relating to Rena are in the file, and as I can I will go through all of it, I'd appreciate two extra and separate copies (there can be two to the page). I have some new information from him and have had several solicitations from him. He had to be leaned on for reason he until recently withheld in part from me, and I desire to keep good relations with him for the day when we can again be together. He arranged a meeting with me I was not able to keep. I've told you of it in part, and I have a complete record of what he told me, which he made clear was hardly what he knows.

Been interrupted twice. Lil is now making breakfast. So, I'll be skipping. I can use extracopies, as with Rena, but for other purposes, of the RFK didn't know files. I went into publicly from the first, especially re Lane and Garrison and Manchester, may have been responsible for the filing of the suit re Manchester by pressure on one of those with whom he had contract, and it remains one of the areas in which we may yet get assistance, under unlikely but possible circumstances. I also go into this, as I recall, in PM.

I've looked at only the first two documents in the envelope numbered 1, the only one I opened. At that point Lil got up. I attract your attention to what I think is the third paragraph, the one relating to N.O., where you seem to have missed something. Let me put it together for you. Bringuier says, without contradiction, that when LHO was interviewed by the FBI there were two agents (customary, where possible, even with me sometimes, on just the return of materials). The official record shows Quiglet only. But this letter makes no reference to Quigley, only Kaack-and remember O in NO, no affidavit from Kaack! I don't remember if I have that particular Kaack report, but if you do, again, I'd like two copies for special purposes I do not here explain. Keep track of the cost of those things, the balance that will be due after you get Jerry's check, etc., and when I can, I'll repay. But I can tell you this: I am getting or perhaps it would be better to say am being fed special information along this general line. It may be a trap, but it can be for real. It is weird.

Hosty notebook: my interest in this, to the best of my knowledge, predates yours. There are other "errors" in it that I may or may not have told you about. Garrison was pretty far out when I showed what I had to him, so I decided it had best not be used by others. One of the things they went out of their way to hide from the Commission was Frank Bartes, of whom I need tell you no more than I have in the past. Another, Walker.

You refer to the cars. Have you not asked yourself what purposes they could serve? What use did he, personally, or in his own interests, have for them? Where is, LHO?

I remind you again that when DJ did permit Kennedy to appear before the N.O. jury, they kept deB out of town, from the time of my grand-jury appearance, if not before, for we discussed my appearance by phone and they intercepted the [illegible] of O in NO at least twice. If they didn't hear Penn's conversations with me by phone. You may not yet have tumbled to the full significance of deB in all of this, and I may likewise have the wrong notion. But please regard it as a very delicate matter until we can agree that it is resolved. He really did lose his cool and threaten Penn with physical violence. He did associate with Ferrie and another I'll not here name.

These new things on Bringuier and the pages from the Marine book, if you have them, I would also like duplicate copies. I intend to keep what you sent as you sent it, so that if we have to communicate about it we can with a consistent reference. At least until I have gone over all of them with care.

Rankin is, I think, the crux of the whole think. I have from the beginning felt that the "liberal" Willens had special, dual functions. He was on DJ payroll and went back to it. He is one of the reasons the Wash Post doublecrossed me to begin with. They like, respect and trust him. All I had to know is what I early learned, that as an alleged economy measure he killed the indexing of the material.

Stern. It is now even more clear that you are correct in believing that he should be interviewed. Keep a notebook handy and jot down the questions you think he should be asked and if you'd care, at the right time, I'll approach him. As you have learned, some of these people do talk to me. Or have. Others, I know, will. But only after adequate prep. And then I'd like to just skip around and chat until it is clear he is willing to be open. I have my own tedious (to others) way of interviewing which is usually productive. I've gotten from May what others have not, for example, partly because he could not follow and anticipate my questions.

I've never followed such angles, but Virella is of interest to me now and for reasons I can't communicate. My mail has again been very bad, esp. some of the outgoing.

Holmes: If I haven't told you, there is, from a police point of view, possible innocence in all of that. Of the six members of the Dallas CP cell, four were agents, and this cell was connected with the CL Forum through common members.

I am more than ever convinced that you really must, in your own time and way, do your own independent study of Oswald as an agent. This list in itself discloses what I woul would anticipate, an entirely different approach to it. When that time comes, my N.O. interviews, some of which I've never transcribed, may be of interest to you. I think some should be.

WC operations: what everyone forgets is that this is the very first thing I went into, based on my own experience when I was younger than you, in the two-part intro to WW. The present interests I have you will recall for what you saw of Dulles.

I cannot yey decide how I will work on these and the declassified pages. If I can find the dough to get one of my original Concord tape recorders overhauled, I'll see if I can make notes as I read on tape and have my wife transcribe them. If possible, this will certainly be better than my typing, and faster.

Specter-film: I know he and others saw the X-rays, including the medical witnesses, and that at that time the X-rays were undamaged. I sent you what I have been able to get on the history of the pictures. I know this is incomplete. I know they were studied and some of those who did. I am not yet ready to pursue this further, but believe me, it is not only unlikely that they were not, I have good reason to believe they were. The problem is that those who did the studying were unable to comprehend. They must have known enough to know that the official story was false, and I have indication of this. Byt they had no Cyril with them. One of the reasons I delayed filing my panel suit was to lay a proper foundation, to avoid what happened with Nichols, who is still ignorant of the basic fact, as of his latest court papers. Perhaps you can now understand two things: why I filed when I did for the pictures of the clothing, why I filed the spectro first, and why I'm not pushing for hearing on the pix suit, which I could have had by mid-March. It may be wrong to cool it, but I'm letting it cool, because on the basis of what I do know and figure, this is now the best approach. But all these thingsto that take time makes me worry about the nuts. Sprague, for example, is planning some kind of suit. You can be sure that neither he nor Bud will discuss it with me and that they will make serious mistakes, unless Jim can talk them into it. (I may soon be filing some different one, a total of three, if I can see my way clear, those you liked).

I think your hunch on the junior member is correct, esp., as you specify, on Aly.

The declassified copies I got were incomplete and a mess, making much extra work not all cleared up yet. I hate to waste time, for I've so little.

I have the Goulden story on LHO as an agent, the one Vince refused to give me. Howard got me a stat from the library. I may someday look G up. He lives in DC. Time again is the question. In this area, I remind you of my trip to Dallas, some of the relationships I've made there, and my belief that when I have put together what I can, on paper, if I can get down there again, I may get more. I also ask you to note Hoover's diversion on the January hearing, which he withheld. When I put enough together, I may be able to get access to this. But here I am reminded of a caution: from the Davison stupidity and this new memo, can you please take my word and give none of the CTIA anything? Their egos and paranoias will destroy everything. They are eaten alive by the yearning to do something and they are incapable of it save by accident or theft. I'll write me as I go on. Best,